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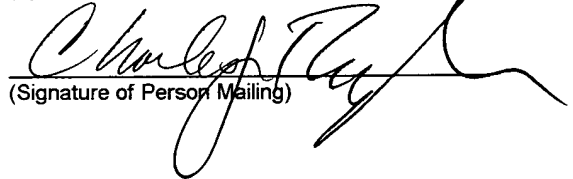
Assistant Commissioner for Patents

PO Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Charles J. Rupnick

(Typed or printed name of person mailing)



(Signature of Person Mailing)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No. : 10/698,254
Inventor(s) : Steven A. Foote
Filed : October 31, 2003
TC/A.U. : 2856
Examiner : Helen C. Kwok

Confirmation No.: 2943

Docket No. : H0003728
Customer No. : 00128

Mail Stop: RCE
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Cover Sheet for

Information Disclosure Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56

Assistant Commissioner for Patents:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97 through 1.98, Applicant wishes to make known to the Patent and Trademark Office the references set forth on the attached form PTO-1449 (copies of the cited non-US patent references are enclosed). As to any reference supplied, Applicant does not admit that it is "prior art" under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103, and specifically reserves the right to traverse or antedate any such reference, as by a showing under 37 C.F.R. §

Information Disclosure dated: May 6, 2005

1.131 or other method. Although the aforesaid references are made known to the Patent and Trademark Office in compliance with Applicant's duty to disclose all information he is aware of which is believed relevant to the examination of the above-identified application, Applicant believes that his invention is patentable. Please acknowledge receipt of this Information Disclosure

5 Statement and kindly make the cited references of record in the above-identified application.

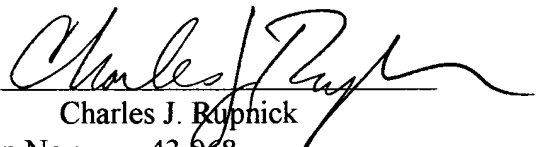
Each item of information contained in the instant Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a search report prepared by the International Searching Authority in a counterpart application filed on January 17, 2002, under the Patent Cooperation Treaty not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of the instant Information Disclosure Statement.

10 Additionally, this Information Disclosure Statement being filed: (1) Within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d); (2) Within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application; (3) Before the mailing of a first Office action on the merits; or (4) Before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued
15 examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, and therefore no fee is believed due.

If the Examiner has questions or wishes to discuss any aspect of the case, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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25

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/698,254
Filing Date	October 31, 2003
First Named Inventor	Steven A. Foote
Art Unit	2856
Examiner Name	Helen C. Kwok
Attorney Docket Number	H0003728

Sheet 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials⁷	Cite No.¹	Foreign Patent Document		Name of Patente or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T6
		Country Code³	-Number⁴ - Kind Code⁵ (<i>If known</i>)			
			EP I 271 775 A	01-02-2003	Taussig, Carl P.	

Examiner
Signature

Date
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1. Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.**